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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/682,771	10/17/2001	Fusanobu Nakamura	JP920000286US1	4213
877	7590	12/24/2003	EXAMINER	
IBM CORPORATION, T.J. WATSON RESEARCH CENTER P.O. BOX 218 YORKTOWN HEIGHTS, NY 10598			STEVENSON, ANDRE C	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2812	

DATE MAILED: 12/24/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 09/682,771	Applicant(s) NAKAMURA ET AL.	
	Examiner Andre' C. Stevenson	Art Unit 2812	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 06 November 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-10 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 8-10 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-7 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application) since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121 since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____ 6) ☐ Other: _____

Detail Action

Acknowledgment is made of applicant's claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d). The certified copy has been filed in parent Application No. 09682771, filed on October 17, 2001.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(a) the invention was known or used by others in this country, or patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country, before the invention thereof by the applicant for a patent.

Claims 1 through 7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) as being anticipated by Hashizume et al (U.S. Pat. No.6303395 B1).

Hashizume et al (U.S. Pat.6394607), for **Claim #1**, a display apparatus comprising: a display panel for displaying an image; a light source for supplying light to the display panel; a flat-surface lighting surface member which has a lighting surface emitting light, radiated from the light source, as a flat-surface light while being arranged with the display panel (**Column 2, lines 54 through 59**); and a housing that contains the display panel, the light source, and the lighting surface member, and has a window through which light from the lighting surface member leaks to the outside (**Fig. 5, item 37 & 38, Column 10, lines 59 through 67, Column 12, lines 29 through 44**).

With respect to **Claim #2**, a display apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein the lighting surface member has a back surface facing the lighting surface, and wherein light passing through the back surface passes the window to leak to the outside, is taught by Hashizume et al (U.S. Pat.6394607) (Column 8, lines 60 through 67, Column 9, lines 1 through 10).

With respect to **Claim #3**, display apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein the window comprises a through-hole or optically transparent material, is taught by Hashizume et al (U.S. Pat.6394607) (Fig. 2b, Column 3, lines 6 through 11, Column 7, lines 29 through 33, Column 18, lines 20 through 50).

Furthermore, **Claim #4**, a display apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein a light quantity regulator adjusting the quantity of light passing the window, is taught by Hashizume et al (U.S. Pat.6394607) (Column 3, lines 52 through 60).

With respect to **Claim #5**, a display apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein a condensing member for condensing light leaking from the window in a predetermined area is provided, is taught by Hashizume et al (U.S. Pat.6394607) (Column 18, lines 20 through 50).

Considering now **Claim #6**, a liquid crystal display apparatus, comprising: a liquid crystal display panel for displaying an image; a light source for emitting light for

image display; a light guide plate that has a front surface and a back surface, the liquid crystal display panel being arranged on the front surface side of said light guide, and is used for leading light emitted from the light source to the liquid crystal display panel **(Column 21, lines 38 through 49)**; and a frame that holds the liquid crystal display panel, the light source, and the light guide plate, and has an optically transparent area that transmits light emitted from a back surface of the light guide plate, is taught by Hashizume et al (U.S. Pat.6394607) (Fig. 5 & 4, Abstract, Column 10, lines 59 through 67, Column 12, lines 29 through 44).

Furthermore, **Claim #7**, a liquid crystal display apparatus according to Claim 6, wherein a shutter that can cover the optically transparent area is provided in the frame, is taught by Hashizume et al (U.S. Pat.6394607) (Fig. 5 & 4, Abstract, Column 10, lines 59 through 67, Column 12, lines 29 through 44, Column 21, lines 38 through 49).


Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Andre' Stevenson whose telephone number is (703) 308 6227. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday from 7:30 am to 4:30 pm.

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John Niebling, can be reached on (703) 308 3325. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 308 7724.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308 0956. Also, the proceeding numbers can be used to fax information through the Right Fax system;

- **703 872 9306**


John F. Niebling
Supervisory Patent Examiner
Technology Center 2800

Andre' Stevenson

Art Unit 2812

12/09/03